

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT [] Political and Economic
Summary []

DATE DISTR. 29 JUL 1958

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NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

PROCESSING COPY

DATE OF INFO. []

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PLACE & DATE ACQ. []

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A. Political - Economic**Relation Moscow-Peking**

- a. On occasion of the meeting of the Central Committee of the Chinese CP [redacted] additional purges predominantly directed against the high-ranking officer corps, students and lecturers, as well as higher party functionaries suspected of revisionism, were agreed upon [redacted]

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- b. Mao asked Khrushchev for talks on the following Red-Chinese concerns:

Increased efforts by Moscow toward admission of Red China to the UN;
Equipment with nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date;
Support of Peking's efforts for own production of nuclear weapons;
Unequivocal advocacy of Red-Chinese interests by Moscow at all West-East talks.

Khrushchev plans to enter into these talks approximately between 10 and 20 July 1958 [redacted]

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- c. During the Red-Chinese-Soviet military talks in November 1957, an agreement was reached on the establishment of Soviet rocket launching sites on Red-Chinese territory. Pertinent construction work, under supervision of Soviet specialists was to be carried out and almost or, in some cases, entirely completed by May 1958. The Soviets turned down Red-Chinese requests to make available to them nuclear rocket weapons in the case of a local conflict in the Strait of Formosa; instead, they agreed only on the delivery of conventional rocket weapons [redacted]

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Comment. Interior Red-Chinese differences have apparently by no means come to an end. In this connection, difficulties with regard to minority groups (for example in Sinkiang) and the complete incorporation of Tibet may also be mentioned. The expected bad harvest will further aggravate internal tensions. It is this situation which undoubtedly plays a decisive rôle in the violent struggle of the leadership of the Chinese CP against revisionism and for a closer cooperation of the entire East Bloc. Peking is also in need of success in the foreign political field, in order to draw the attention of the population from interior problems. In this connection, mention may also be made of the possibility to take up the question of Peking's acknowledgement along with that of control of nuclear weapon tests. The problem of an equipment Red China's with modern weapons must be considered apart from the planned construction of rocket launching sites and the equipment of the latter with nuclear weapons. Rocket launching sites can be constructed by the USSR within the framework of large-scale strategical planning without any effect on Peking's importance and its possibilities for a possible solitary armed action. However, the main point would be the equipment of these bases with nuclear weapons which, according to all indications available, is not intended by Moscow. The production of such weapons by Red China can, moreover, not be expected within the future, since, at present, Peking is in possession of only one testing reactor, the plutonium production of which is far from sufficient for such a purpose. It should not be overlooked that even the spreading of false reports on the construction of launching sites, expected delivery of atomic weapons etc. which cannot easily be contradicted is likely to exert a considerable political pressure on the West.

See also supplement.

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B. Armed Forces

I. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)

1. Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

Soviet press reports of 26 June mentioned for the first time Marshal of the Arm'd Comd, P.A. Rotmistrov, as Chief of the I.V. Stalin War College for Tank Troops.

Comment. The above info indicates that Marshal of the Arm'd Comd, S.I. Bogdanov, who had held this position since 1954, has been relieved by Marshal Rotmistrov as chief of the war college. Marshal of the Arm'd Comd P.A. Rotmistrov was mentioned in the following positions: graduate of the "Frunse" war college; Jul 1942, Brig Gen of the Arm'd Comd; Oct 1942, Commander VII Tank Corps, later III Gds Tank Corps; Dec 1942, Maj Gen of the Arm'd Comd; after January 1943, Commander-in-Chief Fifth Gds Tank Army; Oct 1943, General of the Arm'd Comd; Feb 1944, Marshal of the Arm'd Comd; Jan 1947, Commander Tank Mech Forces of GSFG; after Sep 1950, repeatedly mentioned as present at various receptions, banquets etc. in Moscow. Presumably Chief of Main Administration Arm'd Comd in the Ministry of Defense.

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The new employment of Marshal of the Arm'd Comd, S.I. Bogdanov, is unknown. Soviet press reports of 28 June mentioned for the first time General Ya. G. Kreyser as Commander of the Transbaikai MD, Maj Gen of the Arm'd Comd Malakhov as his deputy and Brig Gen G. Marchenko as member of the War Council and chief of the political administration of the Transbaikai MD.

Comment. Gen Ya. G. Kreyser was mentioned in the following positions: Aug 1941, Brig Gen and Commander 1st Proletarian Div; Oct - Nov 1941, Commander-in-Chief Third Army; Oct 1942, Commander-in-Chief First Reserve Army (later Sixty-fourth Army); Jan 1943, Deputy Commander Second Gds Army; Feb 1943, Maj Gen; March-Aug 1943, Commander-in-Chief Second Gds Army; Sep 1943, Commander-in-Chief Fifty-first Army; Aug 1944 "Hero of the USSR"; Jul 1945, Gen; Nov 1947-appr 1950, Commander-in-Chief Seventh or Forty-fifth Army in the Erevan area, Transkaukasian MD; now, Commander-in-Chief Transbaikai MD. Maj Gen of the Arm'd Comd K.M. Malachov was mentioned in the following positions: Jun 1944-Jan 1945, Brig Gen of the Arm'd Comd and Commander-in-Chief XIX or I Tank Corps; Jul 1945, Maj Gen of the Arm'd Comd; Nov 1948, signs obituary notice for Brig Gen AA Bystror, chief of the Polit Department in one of the administrations of the Baltic MDs; Jul 1951, signs obituary notice to Maj Gen of the Arm'd Comd Korchagin; Feb 1955, greets the delegates of the Taurian MD on the Day of the Soviet Army and the Navy. No data are available on Gen G. Marchenko. He may be identical with one Colonel Marchenko who was mentioned in an article of February 1949, as chief of the Polit Department of an u/i unit.

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2. A note from the Wolga MD, dated 26 June, indicates that a sports festival of Competitions in athletics, shot putting, gymnastics, and soccer involved the Suvorov military schools and was held in the MD. Representatives of the Kuybyshev, Kazan, Saratov and Orenburg Suvorov military schools. The pupils of the Kuybyshev Suvorov school won the competition.

Comment. The fact that the Orenburg Suvorov military school was mentioned in the Wolga MD, is the first indication of a possible dissolution of the South Ural MD, since Orenburg or Chkalov, as it is also called, has been the seat of the South Ural MD Headquarters. The transfer to the Transbaikal MD of the Commander of the South Ural MD may be another indication of the dissolution. Should the dissolution of the South Ural MD prove correct, the area of the former South Ural MD will presumably be attached to the Ural, Volga and Turkestan MDs.

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3. Army General A.V. Gorbatoev has been in Moscow for several months and has repeatedly been mentioned at various receptions.

Comment. It is possible that A.V. Gorbatoev had been relieved from his post as Commander-in-Chief of the Baltic MD and was entrusted with a position in the Ministry of Defense. A confirmation is, however, required.

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II. Poland

Recruiting and Replacement Administration

On orders by the Ministry for National Defense and the Ministry of the Interior, the title of "Diploma Officer" was introduced for graduates from the following academies:

"General Swierczewski" General Staff Academy;
"General Dabrowski" Military Technical Academy;
"Voroshilov" (USSR) Higher Echelon Military Academy;
Frunze Military Academy (USSR);
Gottwald Academy (Czechoslovakia).

Officers who had graduated from the war college already prior to 1939 are also allowed this title. The order stresses especially, however, that graduates from refresher courses at military academies are not allowed this title.

(Polish Press, 5 June 1958)

Comment. The title "Diploma Officer" had already been awarded to general staff officers prior to WW II. The planned reintroduction of this title had already been reported

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It is worth noting, that the title will also be awarded to Polish officers who visited the above academies in the USSR and/or Czechoslovakia. This may be an indication of joint training of officers within the framework of the Warsaw Pact.

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III. Czechoslovakia**General**

Following an invitation by the Czech Minister for National Defense, a delegation of the Soviet Army visited Czechoslovakia. Brig Gen B. Kurtsev, a member of the delegation, made the following statements:

The Czech government decided as early as 1945 to organize the Czech People's Army after the Soviet pattern. Under the supervision of the CP, the Czech Army has developed into a modern army which is enjoying a good reputation and a close connection to the people. The army which appears to have a good morale and high training level, is sufficiently being supplied with modern weapons including tanks, prime movers, and guns, motor vehicles, small arms, and aircraft, as well as clothing and rations, all of which are being produced in Czechoslovakia. EM and officers of the Czech Army are receiving training on and with this equipment under almost war-time conditions. They are making use of experiences made by Soviet troops and armies of other Socialist countries and are keeping track of all publications, always willing to accept new suggestions etc. (Soviet Press, 12 April 1958)

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Comment.

The present report again confirms: own (Czech) production of weapons and equipment; high training level; and high status of Czech Army within state. The organization and training after Soviet pattern, as well as the decisive influence of the CP, are also worth noting.
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C. Army

I. USSR (GDR)

1. Order of Battle

In June 1958, the following additional transfers were observed in the GDR.

a. Area of the Eighth Gds Army (Meer)

7 June, Gera: a new unit of about 800 men wearing motor transport insignia, equipped with a major number of trucks, arrived by rail and moved into Reuss (8141) and Tins Kaserne (8142) [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. On 5 June, Reuss Kaserne had been vacated by the bulk of a u/i AT unit, which had temporarily been quartered there after the withdrawal of the 308th Arty Brig. On the same day, the bulk of the u/i amph veh unit/Eighth Gds Army (Meer) left Tins Kaserne. [redacted] The new unit which moved into the two barracks on 7 June, could not yet be identified.

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26 June, Jena: the signal unit which had so far been quartered in Polizei Kaserne (8223) moved to Loebstedt Kaserne (8222)

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[redacted] Comment. The above unit is the u/i Sig Bn/20th Gds Meer Div (Tank).

27 June, Rudolstadt: the Prinz Eugen Kaserne (8462) was occupied by about 800 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets with arty and motor transport insignia. Six AA guns, presumably 86-mm guns, and one electric measuring device were parked in the yard [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. So far, the Motor Trans Bn and, possibly, the u/i RL unit/39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (Meer) had been carried in Prinz Eugen Kaserne. AA guns are observed at the installation for the first time. The subordination of the AAA unit is still unknown.

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b. Area of the First Gds Meer Army (Tank)

17 June, Riesa: the sig unit which had so far been stationed in von-der-Goltz Kaserne (1802) has moved into Mudra Kaserne (1801) [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. Presumably additional transfers of units/9th Tank Div. The u/i Sig Bn of this Div is now assumed to be stationed in Mudra Kaserne.

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2. Training

Until late June, intensive training activities were still observed at most of the posts and training grounds. In addition to continued firing practices of arty units and continued bridge building practices of engr units at water training sites, numerous motorized columns with various weapons and extraordinarily many signal and headquarters vehicles were observed in the Eberswalde-Neustrelitz-Ludwigslust-Kyritz area after 29 June. At the same time, various mtz rifle and arty units from the Berlin-Frankfurt/Oder area were entrained.

The following was observed:

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a. Command-Post Exercise in the northern part of the GDR

28 June, large mtz columns incl mtz rifle units moved through Biesenenthal in direction Eberswalde;

29/30 June, 14 rail shipments arrived in the Greifswald distr from various posts of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army [redacted]

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1 July, truck columns incl mtz rifle and arty units from direction Liebenwalde passed through Zahdenick toward the west;

30 June-4 July, columns and bivouacs of arty, sig and hq units observed in the area south-east Neustrelitz;

2-4 July, large columns of arty and tank units moved on highway No 5 from Ludwigslust through Perleberg to the area south of Wusterhausen/Dosse and vice versa;

2-4 July, columns of AT and AAA units, partially together with NVA units, observed in the Ludwigslust-Hagenow-Boizenburg area [redacted]

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German Comment. Between 30 June and 4 July, a command-post exercise was presumably held by GSFG in the northern part of the GDR between Templin and Luebtheen trg grounds, with elms of the following armies participating:

Fourth Gds Mecz Army: elms 1st Mecz Div, elms 10th Gds Tank Div, possibly elms 6th Gds Mecz Div, elms 3rd Engr Regt, elms 63d AAA Div, elms 32nd AAA Div/GSFG;

Third Shock Army (Mecz): large elms 18th Mecz Div, elms 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div;

Second Gds Mecz Army (Tank): possibly elms 9th Gds Tank Div.

NVA units were also observed participating in the exercise (see part C, II). It is well possible that units/Twenty-fourth Air Army also participated.

Command-post exercises at the same level, however without NVA units, had already been observed in previous years; the above info tends to indicate that this year, major summer exercises will be carried out jointly by Soviet and NVA units. It is also possible that further transfers of troop units in the army area mentioned will be carried out within the framework of this command-post exercise.

b. Additional Training Activity:

(1) Arty Training

18 Jun, elms 316th Gds RL Regt/Eighth Gds Army (Mecz) from Saalfeld transferred for training near post;

18-20 Jun, elms Arty Regt/19th Gds Mecz Div (Tank) from Magdeburg transferred to Letzlinger Heide, presumably for firing practices;

24/25 June, large elms Arty Regt/Eighth Gds Mecz Div from Leisnig transferred to Juetzing trg grounds for firing practices;

28 Jun-1 Jul, arty units, presum 21st Gds Mecz Div, held

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firing practices at Chardraf tag grounds;

(2) Engr Training

13-26 June, bulk 35th Engr Regt/Third Gds Meez Army from Kochstedt engaged in bridge building practices at the Rossau engr camp on the Elbe River;

15-26 June, engr training of elms Engr Bn/20th Gds Meez Div (Tank) from Jena at tent camp on Saale River near post;

22-25 June, elms 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG from Magdeburg practices at Rennwiesen tag grounds near post;

(3) Signal Training

23-25 June, elms 105th Sig Regt/Third Shock Army (Meez) from Magdeburg practiced in Letzlinger Heide;

(4) Air Landing Training

23 and 26 June, an u/i army unit held air landing practices at company level with 3 helicopters at Werder-Markendorf tag grounds (B/C/T-2/3).

Comment: Advanced training of arty and engr units continued at the known tag grounds while only some tank and mtz rifle units conducted short-term advanced combat practices mostly near posts. In 1957 training of tank units had also been conducted on a rather small scale during the same period. The air landing training of small Soviet Army unit which was observed for the first time in the GDR is worth noting.

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II. GDR

Training

a. In late June, the engr tag grounds on the Elbe River northeast Dessau was still heavily occupied

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b. During the second half of June, units of all branches of service were stationed at summer camps and/or were holding exercises

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Comment: Training of infantry, arty, engr, and tank units continued as previously.

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c. Between 30 June and 4 July, training activity of signal and combat units, possibly only headquarters elms was observed simultaneously in various sections of the 5th MD

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Comment: From the fact that the above movements coincided with Soviet movements by rail and road, in connection with an announcement by a deserter, it may be concluded that joint Soviet and NVA practices have been held during the period under review. See also part C, I, 2, a, of this report

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III. Poland

Order of Battle (Organization)

In March 1958, the 8th Engr Bn Crossen/Oder, C/O Major Yamni, was organized as follows:

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1st Engr (Tng) Company (Second year men)
 2nd Engr Company) (so-called recruit companies which provided basic engr
 3rd Engr Company) training, including building and operating of
 pontoon ferries).

a 4th (Reserve) Company was being activated if necessary, for the
 last time in January 1958, when 60 reservists between 28
 and 40 years had arrived.

Infantry accompanying platoon (30 men)

Mine-locating detail (4 men)

Radio section (4 men)

Vehicle maintenance platoon (10-12 men)

Operational platoon (30 men, supply service).

The following engr equipment was available:

about 40 pontoon parts N2P,
 1 motor-boat for towing pontoon ferries,
 1 "patrol boat",
 3 Motor-boats for 30 men each,
 2 amphibious tanks,
 and the usual general engr equipment, explosives, primers, etc.

[redacted] the 8th
 Engr Bn, in 1958/59 was to receive new engr equipment to be redesignated
 into "Mecz Engr Bn", and to be considerably increased [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. The 5th Engr Bn/4th Mtz Rifle Div is carried in Crossen.
 [redacted] has repeatedly been confirmed in Crossen. The smaller units
 of the battalion (infantry accompanying platoon etc) may be organized
 in one (hq?) company.

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The equipment with about 40 N2P pontoon sections allows the construction
 of 16-ton, 30-ton, and 60-ton ferries or, with the complete equipment
 (1 park - 48 N2Ps), the construction of about 75-meter, 140-meter, and/
 or 185-meter bridges.

Amphibious tanks have so far been observed with Soviet Army reconnaissance
 units only. The announced rearmament of the battalion corresponds
 with other measures observed in connection with the modernization of the
 Polish Army.

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

1. Location of Thirty-Seventh Air Army

Ohlau (50 59 N/17 15 E) was occupied by 32 MiGs in late June 1958. Twelve more MiGs were parked in the open, 1.5 km southwest of the airfield [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. It is assumed that a Soviet fighter regiment (formerly ground attack aircraft) is stationed at Ohlau.

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II. Poland

1. Location of Troops

In April 1958, the Polish fighter regiment at Zendek (50 29 N/19 05 E) airfield which is subordinate to a fighter division in Krakow (50 05 N/19 55 E) was equipped with about 40 jet aircraft including 2 or 3 MiG-15s and 1 or 3 MiG-17s. With regard to operation, the 34th BOL was subordinate to the fighter regiment and had an actual strength of 325 men. [redacted]

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[redacted] Comment. It is assumed that the 39th Polish Fighter Regiment, subordinate to Fighter Division Balice (50 05 N/19 48 E) is stationed at Zendek. POL at Zendek is unusually weak.

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2. Logistics

Since January 1957, 600 men of the Polish Air Force Construction Battalion Elbing [redacted] has been employed for the construction of Borsk (53 57 N/17 57 E) airfield. The maneuvering area 3,000 x 600 m was constructed on a sandy terrain, formerly covered by pinewood. The runway bed was 2,000 m long, 60 m wide and roughly extended in west-southwest-east-northeastern direction. The beginning of the concreting work had been scheduled for the spring of 1958. A section of the taxiway (1,300 m long, 12 m wide, 15-20 cm thick scheduled to be 25 cm thick) south of the runway was completed in September 1957. Shortly after completion, cracks and depressions of the concreted slabs were caused by trucks of the construction unit, due to insufficient thickness of the concrete top layer since cement had been sold underhand. In the south of the airfield an area was excavated for a hardstand and an apron (200 x 40 m). In the southeastern part of the airfield, a double track junction line with several switches was completed and after 4 km joined the Kosciuszyna (54 07 N/17 59 E) Lag (53 50 N/18 04 E) railroad line. The airfield was partly fenced in by barbed wire attached to concrete piles. [redacted]

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Comment.

It is assumed that Borsk airfield will be occupied by a flying unit in the fall of 1958 at the earliest.

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